

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing bacterial outer membrane vesicles (OMVs), comprising a step of ultrafiltration of a crude OMV preparation containing bacterial DNA prior to any ultracentrifugation or sterilisation steps.
2. (Original) The process of claim 1, wherein the crude OMV preparation is an aqueous suspension of OMVs that have been prepared from bacteria.
3. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 1, wherein the ultrafiltration step results in diafiltration.
4. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 1, wherein the ultrafiltration is cross-flow or tangential flow.
5. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 1, wherein the membrane used for ultrafiltration has a cut-off of about 300kDa.
6. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 1, wherein the OMVs are sterilised after ultrafiltration.
7. (Original) The process of claim 6, wherein the sterilisation is by filter sterilisation.
8. (Previously Presented) A process for preparing bacterial OMVs, comprising the steps of: (a) cultivating bacterial cells; (b) collecting and/or concentrating the cultivated cells; (c) disrupting the outer membranes of the cultivated cells; and (d) preparing OMVs by the method of claim 1.

9. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 1, further comprising the step of combining the OMVs with a pharmaceutical carriers and/or adjuvants and/or stabiliser.

10. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 1, wherein the bacterium for OMV preparation is Gram negative.

11. (Original) The process of claim 10, wherein the bacterium is *Neisseria meningitidis*.

12. (Original) The process of claim 11, wherein the bacterium is serogroup B *N. meningitidis*.

13. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 12, wherein the bacterium is a B:4:P1.4 strain, a B:4:P1.15 strain, a B:4:P1.19,15 strain, a B:4:P1.7b,4 strain or a B:15:P1.7,16 strain.

14. (Original) The process of any one of claims 11 to 13, wherein the *N.meningitidis* has one or more mutations to decrease or knockout expression of a gene product.

15. (Original) The process of claim 14, wherein the gene product is Cps, CtrA, CtrB, CtrC, CtrD, ExbB, ExbD, FrpB, GalE, HtrB, MsbB, LbpA, LbpB, LpxK, NMB0033, OpA, OpC, PhoP, PilC, PmrE, PmrF, PorA, PorB, rmpM, SiaA, SiaB, SiaC, SiaD, SynA, SynB, SynC, TbpA and/or TbpB.

16. (Previously Presented) A process for purifying bacterial OMVs, wherein the process does not include a centrifugation step in which the OMVs are pelleted.

17. (Withdrawn) Bacterial OMVs obtainable by the process of claim 1.

18. (Withdrawn) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the OMVs of claim 17 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

19. (Withdrawn) The composition of claim 18, comprising an aluminium hydroxide adjuvant and a histidine buffer.

20. (Withdrawn) The composition of claim 18 or claim 19, wherein the composition is substantially free from whole bacteria.

21. (Withdrawn) A vial containing the composition of claim 18 or claim 19.

22. (Withdrawn) A syringe containing the composition of claim 18 or claim 19.

23. (Withdrawn) A method for raising an immune response in a patient, comprising administering an immunogenic dose of the composition of claim 18 or claim 19.